

38. *Simon on Peruvian Trochilidæ.*

[Etude sur les Trochilidés observés au Pérou par G. A. Baer. Par Eugène Simon. Nov. Zool. ix. p. 177.]

In his journey through Eastern Peru, principally in the basin of the Huallaga, the entomological collector Baer obtained a series of Trochilidæ, which are referred to 25 species by M. Simon. *Metallura theresiæ* is described as new, and appears to be quite a distinct species. *Psalidoprymna gouldi chlorura* of Hartert (Tierr. p. 183) is renamed *P. pallidiventris*, and is represented as being allied to *P. gouldi* and *P. gracilis*, but is stated not to be the same as *Lesbia chlorura* of Gould.

39. *Winge on the Birds of the Danish Lighthouses, 1901.*

[Fuglene ved de danske Fyr i 1901. 19de Aarsberetning om danske Fugle. Ved Herluf Winge. Vidensk. Medd. f. d. naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1902, pp. 259-323.]

This is the annual report on the birds met with at the Danish lighthouses (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1902, p. 163), and is illustrated by the usual excellent map, which shews the exact positions of the lights. In 1901, 670 specimens referable to 61 species were sent from 31 lighthouses to the Zoological Museum. A list of the species and various notes are given.

XIII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors":—

SIRS,—I was pleased to see the figure of the courting Robin in 'The Ibis' (1902, p. 678); for although I have for a good many years been familiar with this peculiar attitude as assumed by the Robin, I have never before seen a representation of it in any publication. As Mr. Ogilvie-Grant states that he does not find this courting habit mentioned in any book on British birds, may I refer him to

what I wrote on the subject in 'The Zoologist' for 1896 (p. 427)? When describing the habits of a pair of Blue-throated Warblers, I wrote :—"Presently, as I watched him, the male of the pair sang in an ecstasy, for his plain-coloured mate, which I could see, was creeping and hopping about among the growth of arctic birch close to where he settled, and *he was performing like a Robin*. His head and neck were stretched up, and his bill pointed nearly upwards; his tail was flirited up and down, or held at rather less than a right angle with his body, and his wings were drooped." This peculiar attitude is not confined to the male while actually courting the female, for I have known it assumed by two male Robins in rivalry in the presence of a female. I extract the following remarks from one of my note-books under the date March 30th, 1888 :—"Thus they faced each other, singing in a shrill constrained tone, at a distance of a couple of inches apart; then cuffed at each other once or twice, when one gave up and was chased by the other through the shrubbery." A rough pen-and-ink sketch of one of the Robins in this curious attitude accompanies the note. According to my experience, the body of the bird is not always quite so upright as in Mr. Lodge's drawing. The bill points nearly, but not quite, straight upwards, and the line of the body from the chin to the belly forms a gentle uninterrupted curve. But, of course, this may vary considerably in different cases.

Yours &c.,

O. V. APLIN.

SIRS,—In 'The Ibis' for 1901 (p. 517) I mentioned having seen some Dotterels (*Eudromias morinellus*) on the top of a mountain in Merionethshire on May 10th, 1901. On May 8th in the next year we went up this mountain again for the purpose of looking for these birds. We searched a great deal of ground without success, and at last, being half-numbed by the bitter gusts of icy wind (snow lying in patches about the summit), we began to descend. When crossing a slope covered with weathered stones interspersed with patches of grey-

green vegetation (moss, lichen, wiry grass, and heather only about an inch high) we suddenly and by mere accident came upon four Dotterels feeding among the stones ; and we realized how very easily these quiet little birds might escape notice among the barren tops, even when they were the especial objects of a search. With a wind so keen as to constantly cause one's eyes to fill with tears, one's powers of observation also are materially lessened ! The very tameness of Dotterel is a protection to them, for it would be quite easy to pass within a few yards of them without their rising on the wing or even moving. And brilliant as is the colouring of a full-plumaged Dotterel, when they are quite still among the greys and browns of a mountain-top they are really very inconspicuous. The white coronet on the head is the most conspicuous mark about a Dotterel, and this is especially so when the bird is running away from the observer. But we several times lost sight of one or other of these four, although they were not more than a dozen yards from us. When we had walked within ten yards of them, they even fed *towards* us, so tame were they. When feeding they pecked about among the moss and grass between the stones, turning up tufts of it and greedily eating something they found underneath. As usual, they were full of quaint actions, stretching out a wing or leg from time to time ; and one bird raised its wings high over its back, the tips being uppermost ; another scratched the side of its head with its foot. Two of these birds were in full dress, though one was finer than the other and really most beautiful. The others were dull-coloured birds, with the yellowish edges to the dorsal feathers broad, and the clear bright markings of the under parts wanting.

The Dotterel has seldom been recorded from any part of Wales. But I think the fact of our finding some on the same mountain early in May in two successive years points to the probability that they are regular visitors to the Cambrian mountains on their passage northwards in the spring.

It is, of course, just possible that the Dotterel may breed on some of the tops. The ground looks suitable. But a

search was made in June 1901, and nothing could be seen of the birds.

Yours &c.,

O. V. APLIN.

SIRS,—Reviewing Mr. Chapman's paper "On new Peruvian Birds" in the April number, 1902, pp. 337, 338, you made a remark as follows :—

"The *Chlorochrysa* (*Ch. fulgentissima*) is apparently the same as that described and figured in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1901, p. 716, pl. xv.) by Graf v. Berlepsch and M. Stolzmann as *C. hedwigæ* ; and, if so, Mr. Chapman's name (August 1901) will have priority."

In connection with this allow me to state that there cannot be the slightest doubt that *Chlorochrysa fulgentissima* Chapm. is the same as *Ch. hedwigæ* Berl. & Stolzmann. The question of priority is perhaps still open to some doubt. It is certain that the copies of the article containing the description of the *Chlorochrysa* by Mr. Chapman (bearing the impression "Author's Edition, extracted from 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History,' vol. xiv. Article xix. pp. 225-228, New York, September 7th, 1901") were received here in the second part of the month of September, but some of my friends are of the opinion that Authors' editions extracted from a periodical and sent in advance of the publication of the periodical cannot be regarded as publications in the ordinary sense, because at that time they are not to be obtained through any bookseller, being only accessible to a limited number of writers, to whom they are sent voluntarily by the author of the article. Provided this be the general rule of authors, we have only to make an inquiry whether the number of the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History' containing the article xix. of Mr. Chapman, bearing the date August 1901, was really published in August 1901 or later, viz. earlier or later than the October number of 'The Ibis' of 1901. Unfortunately I am not able to give any statements in this connexion.

I may further remark that the MS. containing the description of *Chlorochrysa hedwigæ* was sent to the Editors of 'The Ibis' in June 1901, but unfortunately too late for publication in the July 'Ibis.' I also alluded to this new species, and explained its characters at the meeting of the Third Section of the Fifth International Zoological Congress at Berlin on August 14th, 1901*.

Regarding the other new species described in Mr. Chapman's article as above, I wish to inform you (1) that *Malacothraupis castaneiceps* Chapm. is evidently the same as *Malacothraupis gustavi* Berl. Journ. f. Orn. 1901 (January number), p. 85 (from Bolivia), and (2) that *Terenura xanthonota* Chapm. is no doubt identical with *Terenura sharpii* Berl. Journ. f. Orn. 1901 (January number), p. 97 (from Bolivia).

In both cases my names have the priority over those of Mr. Chapman.

Schloss Berlepsch,
Nov. 25th, 1902.

Yours &c.,

COUNT BERLEPSCH.

SIRS,—On the morning of the 17th inst. a gamekeeper shot a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) near here, and Mr. J. Cullingford, of Durham, to whom I sent it to be set up, reports it to be a male. The bird had been about for a few days, feeding on the low banks of a pool and in a marshy piece of land adjoining the water. I did not observe any red tinge on the head or neck, both of which were evenly and liberally streaked with grey; but the under parts were suffused with a very decided warm red tint, and the back, wings, and tail were glossed over with brilliant metallic green and purple. Length $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing 11 inches.

Yours &c.,

High Ackworth, Pontefract,
Nov. 21st, 1902.

WALTER B. ARUNDEL.

* Cf. Verh. V. Intern. Zool. Congr. Berlin, p. 549; also see above, p. 116.

SIRS,—Since forwarding to you the MS. of my paper on *Athene chiaradiæ*, on the 4th and again on the 23rd of September last, I have been at Udine and have carefully examined in Mr. Vallon's house the two living specimens of the Black-eyed Civetta and their three yellow-eyed co-nestlings captured along with the parent birds in July last. I found the former perfectly similar to the two first specimens of *A. chiaradiæ* described in my paper, the latter slightly different from the young of the average *A. noctua*. On the 13th of November, 1902, Mr. Vallon sent me three of these small Owls which he had killed, for, being fully fledged and very wild, he feared that they might further damage their feathers, which were beginning to suffer. They were one *A. chiaradiæ* and two of the normal—co-nestlings; on dissection I found them to be all females. I was now able to make a careful comparison between the first and my type, and found it to be quite the same in all essential characters. Being better feathered it looks whiter, and its tarsi and toes are well covered with white feathers, just like the specimen figured by Martorelli; the top of the head is somewhat more spotted. The wing- and tail-feathers being perfect, I may note, moreover, that the four first primaries shew detached white blotches on the inner web: *two* on the 1st and 2nd, only *one* on the 3rd and 4th. On all the following remiges the white longitudinal margin on the inner web is *entire*, becoming very broad on the last. The narrow longitudinal white margin on the outer webs of all the primaries is very distinct, only on the *first four* is it notched, a trace of primitive division. On the tail-feathers the white longitudinal margins are *entire*; on the inner web there are white blotches inside the white margin, except on the two median rectrices, which have such blotches on both webs. *A. chiaradiæ* in this case is again a smaller bird with a proportionately smaller head than the normal Civetta.

The two normal co-nestlings (*A. noctua*), although of the same age, are distinctly larger in size; they are slightly aberrant from the usual type, more spotted on the top of the head

like both parents; they resemble the mother in being dark, but exhibit more white on the facial disc. Both shew a tinge of rose-colour at the base of the inner primaries and on some of the under wing-coverts, which is, I fancy, a character of young feathers. The other two of the same brood, one dark-eyed and the other yellow-eyed, are still alive in Mr. Vallon's house at Udine, the *A. chiaradie* having considerably spoilt its feathers.

I may here add that on the 19th of November I caused the singular albino *A. noctua*, from near Pisa, which I had kept alive from the beginning of the year, to be killed. It was in perfect plumage, but cage-life had produced a considerable malformation in its bill, and I wished to preserve it with the least possible damage. The main peculiarity which I had noticed in this specimen, now a big full-grown female, was the dark greenish-grey colour of the irides, which only under certain incidences of light shewed the red of the blood-vessels, being evidently only partially pigmented but quite enough to look black in ordinary aspects. When dead a closer examination shewed another remarkable character—the entire plumage is of a snowy white when viewed externally, except the middle portion of the tail-feathers and more slightly those around the base of the bill, which are tinged with yellow; but on lifting up the body-feathers and the inner wing-feathers I was surprised to find them all deeply tinged with a vinaceous rose-colour, very like that which is found on the bases of the feathers of certain Bustards in normal condition, namely in our *Otis tetrax*. In this albino Civetta the vinaceous tint extends nearly half up each feather from the base; it is much less marked on the feathers of the head. It looks as if *Athene noctua* as a species, in Italy at least, is in a curious state of instability.

Yours &c.,

R. Zoological Museum, Florence,
Nov. 27th, 1902.

HENRY H. GIGLIOLI.

SIRS,—A female example of *Emberiza pusilla* was procured at the Tees Mouth, near Seaton Snook, on the Durham side of the estuary, on Oct. 11th, 1902, by Messrs. Braithwaite and Millburn. It was submitted to Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, of the British Museum, for identification, and afterwards exhibited at the meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club on Oct. 22nd. As this is only the second known British specimen of this little Bunting, the record of its capture may be considered worthy of a place in the pages of 'The Ibis.'

Yours &c.,

T. H. NELSON.

The Cliffe, Redcar,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

SIRS,—In their paper "On a Collection of Birds from Shendi, Sudan," published in 'The Ibis' for January 1902, Messrs. Rothschild and Wollaston write (p. 32) of *Eupodotis arabs*:—"The chestnut axillaries are a good distinguishing character when the bird is flying." In the Brit. Mus. Cat. Birds, xxiii. p. 323, the axillaries of this species are described as "pure white," and they have certainly been white in about a dozen specimens which I have examined. Did Messrs. Rothschild and Wollaston really come across a species of *Eupodotis* with chestnut axillaries at Shendi, or is it possible that a note on some other species—*Glareola pratincola*, for instance—has been mutilated and mixed up with their note on the Bustard? This explanation suggests itself as the Pratincole is common at Shendi in the spring, but is not referred to in the paper above mentioned, and a reference to it would follow closely after the note on *Eupodotis arabs*.

Yours &c.,

A. L. BUTLER,

Superintendent of Game Preservation,
Khartoum.

Khartoum, Sudan,
Nov. 18th, 1902.

SIRS,—I have the pleasure of informing you that last autumn I bought, through Mr. Vallon's kindness, a splendid specimen of *Athene chiaradia*, which is now in my collection. It is an adult male, and has been beautifully mounted by Prof. Martorelli; it was taken from the nest by Mr. Vallon, July 8th, 1901, on the Alps of Friuli. In my opinion this is the most interesting of the four specimens of this Owl which are known, because it was first described by Mr. Vallon and afterwards by Prof. Martorelli, who has also given an excellent photo of it. I consider it superfluous to repeat my previous statement that this supposed species is, in my opinion, founded upon aberrant specimens of our Little Owl (*A. noctua*).

Yours &c.,

COUNT E. ARRIGONI DEGLI ODDI.

Florence, Italy, Palazzo Panciatichi-
Ximenes, December 10th, 1902.

News of Mr. Nicoll.—Mr. M. J. Nicoll, M.B.O.U., who has been invited to accompany Lord Crawford as Naturalist on a tour round the world in the S.Y. 'Valhalla,' writes to us from Lisbon on Nov. 28th about the marine birds which he has observed, and concerning which he is keeping a regular journal. Shags, Cormorants, Gannets, and Gulls of several species were noted at the Balenga Islands. From Lisbon the 'Valhalla' will proceed to Madeira and St. Vincent, and thence to South Trinidad and down the South-American coast. Passing through the Straits of Magellan, the 'Valhalla' will visit all the principal groups of the South Pacific Islands and return home by the Suez Canal.

New Expedition to South America.—We are pleased to see an announcement in 'Nature' that Othmar Reiser, the well-known ornithologist of the Bosnian Museum at Sarajevo, will accompany a scientific expedition sent out by the Academy of Sciences of Vienna to South America. The

party will land in North Brazil, and proceed into the interior, to study the little-known fauna of Piauhy and Maranhao.

Travels of Capt. Boyd Alexander.—Capt. Alexander returned home from the Gold Coast in September last with a collection of some 250 birds, among which, however, were very few that he had not previously met with in that Colony. On the 25th of the same month he left again for West Africa, having obtained two months' leave, and on Oct. 26th was at Old Calabar, which he describes as "a splendid place, very prosperous, and quite different from the Gold Coast." In a few days he was expecting to leave for Fernando Po, and would thence go on to San Thomé, to make an ornithological reconnaissance of these islands.

The Position of the American Vultures.—The much-vexed question of the correct position of the American Vultures (Cathartidæ) in the 'Systema Avium' is discussed by Mr. Pycraft in his recently-issued paper on the "Osteology of the Falconiformes" (P. Z. S. 1902, vol. i. p. 277). So markedly do these birds differ from all other Accipitrine forms that such good authorities as Garrod and Forbes wished to place them in a separate Order. Garrod proposed to associate them with the Ciconiæ and Steganopodes, and Forbes to arrange them with the Ciconiæ and Tubinares. Mr. Pycraft agrees with Mr. Beddard that osteologically the Falconiformes are rather Gruine than Ciconiine. They have a "desmognathous palate of a quite peculiar type," which, however, is shown by the author to be nearly approached by *Psophia*. He concludes that the Cathartidæ are the least specialized members of the Accipitrine group, shewing their low generalized position by other parts of the skeleton as well as by the skull. We may safely regard them, he thinks, as the most primitive of the Falconiformes.

The Generic Term Ixoreus.—Among the “general notes” in the ‘Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington’ for April last (vol. xv. p. 85) is one from Mr. Charles W. Richmond, insisting that the generic term *Ixoreus*, proposed by Bonaparte in 1854 (C. R. xxxviii. p. 3), should be used, on the ground of priority, instead of *Hesperocichla* of Baird (Rev. Amer. B. i. p. 12, 1864). Now I wish to say that, in my opinion, this change ought not to be made. Bonaparte expressly states that the type of his new genus *Ixoreus* “*n’est pas un Grive ni même un Chanteur, mais un Volucere Tæniopterien.*” Bonaparte (whom I knew well and with whom I was frequently in company about the time of the foundation of this generic name) was in the habit of “making his genera” by putting up a small paper label with the generic name in front of the type in the gallery of the Museum in the Jardin des Plantes. By some extraordinary mistake (for Bonaparte had an excellent knowledge of birds) he imagined that a specimen of *Myiotheretes rufiventris* in the gallery was the bird figured by Audubon as *Turdus naevius*. This was the reason why he stated (quite correctly) that the type of his genus *Ixoreus* was a “Volucere Tæniopterien.” I well recollect, although it is a long time ago, observing this error soon after it was made, whereupon I pointed it out to Bonaparte and to the late Jules Verreaux, who was with me at the time. Our American friends, therefore, may still safely use *Hesperocichla* for the Varied Thrush, *Turdus naevius*, although, in my opinion, it is hardly necessary to separate it from the genus *Turdus*.

If Mr. Richmond had taken the trouble to read what was written upon this subject forty-three years ago (see P. Z. S. 1859, p. 331), he would have saved himself from committing this (already corrected) blunder.—P. L. S. *See also P. Z. S.*

Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg’s Collection of Birds.—We learn from ‘Science’ (n. s. xvi. p. 717) that the collection of the birds of Holland formed by Baron Snouckaert van

Schauburg and mounted by a celebrated Dutch taxidermist has been purchased by the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburg, U.S.A. It numbers about eight hundred specimens, and contains examples of nearly all the species of Western Europe. Each is represented by both sexes in adult plumage, and in many instances by the young also. There are over three hundred species represented in the collection.

International Protection of Small Birds.—We are “pleased” to hear that more serious steps are likely to be taken on the Continent for the protection of small birds. We learn from ‘Science’ (n. s. vol. xvi. p. 277, 1902) that, encouraged by the constantly renewed resolutions of the Councils General and the Agricultural Societies, which deplored the systematic destruction of birds useful to agriculture, the French Government, in 1892, took the initiative in the matter by inviting the European Powers to send representatives to an International Commission on the subject. This Commission met in Paris in June 1895. After long negotiations the convention thus framed has now obtained the adhesion of France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Greece, Hungary, Luxemburg, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Principality of Monaco. All the other States are empowered by the terms of the agreement to adhere, if they think fit, to the convention for the protection of birds. The various contracting governments undertake to prohibit the employment of snares, cages, nets, glue, and all other means for the capture and destruction of birds in large numbers at a time. According to this general measure of protection, no one is to be allowed to capture or kill, between March 1st and Sept. 15th, any of the birds useful to agriculture, of which a complete list is contained in the International Agreement.

Sale of the late Dr. Stark's Eggs, Birds, and Books.—The eggs, bird-skins, and ornithological books of the late Dr. Stark were sold by auction at Stevens' Sale-rooms on

the 19th of June last year, but the notice of this event was accidentally omitted in the October number of 'The Ibis.' There were 127 lots in all, but the greater number of them were eggs. Most of these had been taken by Stark himself, who was a first-rate field-naturalist and collector (see 'Ibis,' 1900, p. 220). Many of the eggs were those mentioned in Irby's 'Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar' and in Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway's 'Birds of North America.' The prices obtained were, as a rule, very low. Some fine eggs of the Bearded Vulture, from Spain, fetched £2 2s.; of the Cinereous Vulture 12s.; of Bonelli's Eagle 8s.; of the Booted Eagle 6s. A nest with five eggs and two skins of the Blue Rock-Thrush (both sexes) brought 25s.; a nest of Savi's Warbler, with four eggs, 35s.; of Cetti's Warbler, with four eggs, 6s. Two eggs of the Great Bustard were sold for 7s.! Of the North-American lots a clutch of two eggs of *Buteo krideri* (referred to in the 'Birds of North America,' vol. iii. p. 284) fetched 35s., and a clutch of eggs of Bartram's Sandpiper, with a skin of the female, from Minnesota, together with other skins, brought only 14s. The books sold were few; the most important being a fine set of 'The Ibis' (1859-99), £85, and the "Zoology" of the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana' (parts 1-150), £80.

Death of Mr. T. E. Buckley.—It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce the death, on the 5th of November, of our fellow-member, Mr. T. E. BUCKLEY, of Inverness, whose name is well known to all readers of 'The Ibis.' The obituarial notice is unavoidably postponed until our next number.